

means generates the print job data by locating the reply information at a predetermined position with respect to the print data, and wherein the print job data is transmitted to the printer;

print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer,

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information;

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means; and

job processing state monitor means for monitoring a processing state of the print data based on the reply information returned from said print job data processing means.

10. (Amended) The print system as claimed in any of claims 6 or 8-9 further including reply information detection means for detecting the reply information returned from said print data processing means and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor means.

11. (Twice Amended) A printer for printing based on input data comprising:

reception means for receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;

print job data processing means for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination which is external to the printer;

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information; and

print control means for printing based on interpretation of said print job data processing means.

19. (Amended) The printer as claimed in any of claims 11-16 or 18 wherein said reception means, said print job data processing means, and said print control means can operate in parallel.

20. (Twice Amended) A recording medium recording a program for generating print data to be transmitted to a printer, said recording medium recording:

a print data generation function of generating print data based on an input document;

a reply information issuance function of issuing reply information at a predetermined position of print job data containing the print data; and

a job processing state monitor function of monitoring a process state of the print job data based on the reply information returned in a format that can be read and understood by a computer,

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wherein the reply information includes intrinsically a predetermined destination and a
reply instruction for replying said process state to said predetermined position.

23. (Once Amended) A printer system including a host computer and a printer
comprising:

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a first controller contained in the host computer, wherein the first controller generates
print job data comprising print data and reply information located in the print job data at a
predetermined position with respect to the print data, and transmits the print job data to the
printer;

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a second controller contained in the printer, wherein the second controller receives the
print job data from the host computer, detects the reply information from the print job data,
returns a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined
destination included in the intrinsic data of said reply information, and controls printing based on
the print data contained in the print job data; and

a monitoring processor, which is external to the printer, receives the reply information
returned from the printer, and monitors a processing state of the print data based on the reply
information returned from the printer.

24. (Once Amended) A recording medium containing a program to instruct a processor
within a printer to perform a routine, comprising:

receiving print job data containing reply information and print data;

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interpreting the print data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and
returning a process state of the print data based on the reply information to a predetermined
destination external to the printer, wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic
data of said reply information,; and
printing based on interpretation of said print data.

Please add the following new claim:

25. The printer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the print data processing means
automatically returns the reply information to the predetermined destination and wherein said
return of the reply information is not in response to any external command.

26. The printer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printer system is utilized in
a network environment.

27. The printer system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the network environment
includes a plurality of host computers that output information to the printer.

28. The printer as claimed in claim 11, wherein the printer is utilized in a network
environment.

29. The printer as claimed in claim 28, wherein the network environment includes a
plurality of host computers that output information to the printer.

30. The print system as claimed in of claim 7, further including reply information
detection means for detecting the reply information returned from said print data processing
means and sending the detected reply information to said job processing state monitor means.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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31. ~~The printer as claimed in claim 17, wherein said reception means, said print job~~
~~data processing means and said print control means can operate in parallel.~~
